

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5544

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJ: CIVAIR - PAN AM FLIGHTS AT OSAKA

REF: STATE 234281

SUMMARY. CAB OFFICIALS RECTOR AND HORNEMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS, HAD USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH JCAB OFFICIALS ON OCTOBER 25. ON JAPANESE SIDE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY GOTO, SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL; HAZAMA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENRAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS; NAKAMURA DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION; AND TOYA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR , INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISON. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES, RECTOR REFERRED TO PAN AM REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AT OSAKA AND ASKED FOR JCAB VIEWS ON PROBLEM AND ON GENERAL SITUATION AT OSAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. AT GOTO'S REQUEST HAZAMA THEN EXPLAINED THAT NUMBER OF FOREIGN AIRLINES HAD ASKED FOR INCREASED FREQUENCIES AT OSAKA AND IN ALL INSTANCES, EXCEPT SPECIAL CASE OF CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA, REQUESTS HAD BEEN REJECTED. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF SEVERE NOISE PROBLEM IN HEAVILY POPULATED VICINITY OF OSAKA AIRPORT RESIDENTS WERE ADAMATELY OPPOSED TO ANY INCREASE IN USE OF AIRPORT AND IN FACT WERE TRYING HARD TO HAVE AIRPORT CLOSED DOWN ENTIRELY. AS RESULT OF THIS

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PROBLEM JCAB HAD ADOPTED PLAN TO REDUCE PROGRESSIVELY

NUMBER OF FLIGHTS INTO AND OUT OF OSAKA. FIRST STAGE OF THIS PLAN INVOLVES REDUCTION OF FREQUENCIES OF JET AIRCRAFT FROM 260 DAILY FLIGHTS TO 240 FLIGHTS. ULTIMATELY, HE SAID JCAB HOPES TO REDUCE LEVEL TO 220 DAILY FREQUENCIES. JCAB HAS ALMOST REACHED 240 LEVEL BY REDUCING DOMESTIC FLIGHTS AND FREEZING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AT DECEMBER 1972 LEVEL. HAZAMA ADDED THAT OSAKA RESIDENTS ALSO ARE OPPOSED TO INTRODUCTION OF WIDE BODIED AIRCRAFT, EVEN THOUGH THEIR NOISE LEVEL IS LOWER THAN CONVENTIONAL JETS. HE SAID THIS IS MAINLY PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM IN SENSE THAT RESIDENTS HARBOR DEEP SEATED FEAR OF ACCIDENTS BY WIDE BODIED PLANES. UP TO NOW NO AIRLINES, EITHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN, HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO USE WIDE BODIED JETS AT OSAKA.

3. HAZAMA SAID JCAB FORESEES NO EARLY IMPROVEMENT OF SITUATION AT OSAKA. GOJ HAS LONG RANGE PLAN TO BUILD A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR KANSAI AREA, BUT COMPLETION THIS PROJECT IS AT LEAST TEN YEARS IN FUTURE (SEE TOKYO A-498, AUGUST 2, 1974).

4. QUESTION OF RESUBMISSION OF PAN AM SCHEDULE UNDER AGREED MINUTE PROCEDURES WAS NOT MENTIONED. HOWEVER, IN DISCUSSION WITH PAN AM/TOKYO OFFICIALS (MACDONALD AND MATSUOKA) AT PRIOR MEETING IN EMBASSY, MACDONALD SAID HE HAD RECEIVED TELEX INSTRUCTIONS TO REFILE THROUGH EMBASSY. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, WE WILL ASSUME THAT STATE 234281 CONSTITUTES OUR AUTHORITY TO FILE SCHEDULE.

5. OTHER POINTS COVERED AT JCAB MEETING (JAPANESE CHARTER POLICY AND NARITA AIRPORT) WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.

6. WE ARRANGED TO DISCUSS OSAKA SITUATION FURTHER WITH NAKAMURA NEXT WEEK. AT THAT TIME WE WILL SEEK MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION, INCLUDING STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH JCAB COMPLYING WITH REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 15 OF CHICAGO CONVENTION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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